

# Inside Wallops

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Goddard Space Flight Center  
Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Va.



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## Wallops Employees Support Several Activities

Wallops employees have been busy supporting several events taking place on the Main Base and in the community.

These photos capture some of the special events that have occurred recently.



*Photo by Rebecca Hudson*

*Pat Dworske, (left), and Terry Ewell took home first and second place respectively in the recent Wallops Toastmaster's Table Topics Contest.*



*Photo by Jan Jackson*

*NASA Sounding Rocket Operations Contract (NSROC) co-op students from Penn State University participated in a Career Fair at Nandua Middle School, Onley, Va. From left to right, Kenny Kwok, Fred Upchurch, Kris Greenert, Nate Empson, and Nick Wroblewski.*



*Photo by Marianne Simko*

*Carolyn Turner, Wallops Environmental Office, received a visit from the Easter Bunny at the annual Wallops Easter Egg Hunt.*



*Photo by Betty Flowers*

*NSROC co-op and Penn State student, Nate Empson, helps Cari Parks, Chincoteague Combined School student, prepare her rocket for launch as part of the Inspire the Next Generation Day events.*



*Photo by Betty Flowers*

*Tony Baldwin, kneeling, of the Wallops Systems Software Engineering Branch, helps (left to right) Jarad Godwin, Christopher Kotsifakis and Dulaney Taylor with robotics during the Inspire the Next Generation Day.*

## NSROC Takes Advantage of Student-Student Outreach

by Jan Jackson, NSROC

The hands-on rocket demonstrations in Building F-10 were a hit with participants taking part in this activity as part of the Inspire the Next Generation Day. Approximately 100 students, in the 4<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, from throughout the local area took part in various activities sponsored by NASA, the Navy, NOAA, Coast Guard and the National Wildlife Refuge.

NASA Sounding Rocket Operations Contract (NSROC) co-ops Nate Empson, Kenny Kwok and Fred Upchurch designed, built and tested two launchers powered by air compression. Each launcher could be adjusted from 30 – 60 degrees. Two large hoops were suspended at different heights from the T&E Lab ceiling and were used for accuracy targets.

The participating students used 3 x 18 inch cardboard mailer tubes, fins made of construction paper, pre-cut aluminum squares of varying weights, and foam nosecones to build their rockets. When

complete, they launched their “rocket” trying to get it through one of the target hoops. They quickly learned how payload weight affected the height, distance and trajectory of their rocket. Time permitting, the students were permitted to adjust the weight of the rocket or the elevation of the launcher and try a second time. Points were awarded for varying degrees of launch success.

Four students received prizes for launching through both hoops. Each student was allowed to keep their rocket. The sponsor and child received a keychain rocket that had been made on the WetJet. The co-ops also prepared a safety plan and wrote a launch procedure as part of this project.

Students also built and launched water bottle rockets with the assistance of NSROC’s Andy Owens and co-op students Nick Wroblewski and Kris Greenert. The co-op students attend Pennsylvania State University.

## Farewell to Winter?

by Ted Wilz, Senior Meteorologist

This past winter came and went across Delmarva with little fanfare and virtually no snowfall. We had just a trace of snow during March. That occurred on the coldest day of the month, March 7, when the temperature reached a high of only 33 degrees. The 1.73 inches of rainfall was well below the monthly average of 3.80 inches, making what is normally one of the wettest months of the year at Wallops, a very dry month indeed!

Although temperatures for March averaged 1.5 inches above normal, it often didn’t feel that warm.

March maintained its reputation as one of the windiest times of the year at Wallops Island. There were 12 days when winds were 30 mph or greater. The strongest winds occurred on March 2 when we had gusts of 49 mph.

A record low was tied when temperatures dropped to 21 degrees on March 6. Towards the end of the month, spring brought much milder temperatures. A record high was set with a summer-like 82 degrees on the warmest day of the month, March 27.

So what can we expect weather-wise in May?

We should experience very pleasant temperatures starting off in the mid to upper 60’s for highs and the upper 40’s for overnight lows. By the end of May, we usually see highs in the mid 70’s and lows warming to the upper 50’s to around 60.

Rain showers can be frequent in May, with measurable rain usually falling on 10 days during the month for a total of 3.13 inches. The coastal sea breeze usually increases during May and helps keep us more pleasant than some inland locations where the temperatures can get quite warm.

The warmest day on record during May occurred with the absence of a sea breeze on May 31, 1991, when the temperature reached a sweltering 97 degrees. Precipitation can vary greatly during May from the driest month on record with .27 inches of rain in 1965 to the wettest May on record in 1972, when we had 7.81 inches of rain.

Be prepared, late spring can bring an increase in the potential for thunderstorms.



## Easter Egg Hunt

NASA’s annual Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by the Wallops Exchange and Morale Association’s, Morale Activities Committee was held March 31. This year the weather was perfect, with warm sunshine and a cool breeze. While waiting for everyone to arrive, our volunteers kept the little egg seekers entertained by playing games and doing crafts.

Excitement filled the air as approximately 100 kids scattered to find the colorful eggs hidden on the lawn behind the Cropper Center.

Thanks to all the volunteers, especially those that helped make the Easter Egg Hunt a great success again this year — Claudia Underwood, Carolyn Turner, Susan Dunn, Joe Mitchell, Tiffany Moisan, Donna Hughes, Regina and Herbie Haugh.

## Career Fair

The NSROC co-op students prepared slide presentations of each of the areas they work in and spoke for three minutes Nandua Middle School’s Career Day. Students in the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade took part in the event.

The 9 foot 4 inch model rocket with deployable booms was used to demonstrate the attitude control system. Spin motors, fins, and other hardware was set up on a display table providing students an opportunity to see parts that had been launched and recovered.

Nick Wroblewski served as team lead for this project, and all the co-ops participated.

### American Red Cross

#### Blood Drive

Wednesday, April 11, 2007  
Building F-3 (Rocket Club)  
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

To schedule an appointment:  
Go to [www.givelife.org](http://www.givelife.org)  
Code for donors is Wallops

For further information, call the Health Unit at x1266.

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